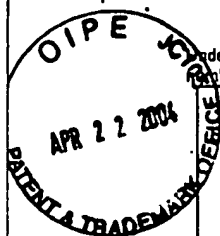


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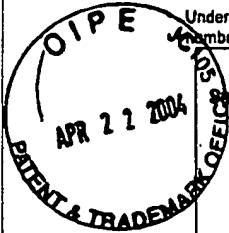
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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/698,702
				Filing Date	October 31, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Branch
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (If known)			
PP		3,486,505	05-1967	Morrison	
		3,848,601	11-1974	Ma	
		4,309,488	01-1982	Heide et al.	
		4,545,374	10-1985	Jacobson	
		4,626,392	12-1986	Kondo et al.	
		4,636,217	01-1987	Ogilvie et al.	
		4,654,314	03-1987	Takagi et al.	
		4,687,675	08-1987	Nakano et al.	
		4,714,469	12-1987	Kenna	
		4,722,870	02-1988	White	
		4,736,738	04-1988	Lipovsek et al.	
		4,743,256	05-1988	Brantigan	
		4,820,305	04-1989	Harms et al.	
		4,834,757	05-1989	Brantigan	
		4,877,020	10-1989	Vich	
		4,878,915	11-1989	Brantigan	
		4,917,703	04-1990	Albrektsson	
		4,950,296	08-1990	McIntyre	
		4,961,740	10-1990	Ray et al.	
		4,976,738	12-1990	Frey et al.	
		5,002,583	03-1991	Pitaru et al.	
		5,015,247	05-1991	Michelson	
		5,026,373	06-1991	Ray et al.	
		5,055,104	10-1991	Ray	
		5,062,845	11-1991	Kuslich	
		5,190,548	03-1993	Davis	
		5,250,061	10-1993	Michelson	
		5,258,029	11-1993	Chu et al.	
		5,282,861	02-1994	Kaplan	
		5,306,302	04-1994	Bauer et al.	
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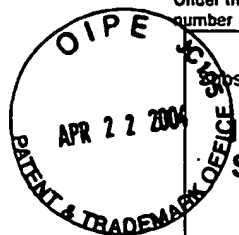
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PP		5,306,303	04-1994	Lynch	
		5,306,309	04-1994	Wagner et al.	
		5,329,846	07-1994	Bonutti	
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		5,346,492	09-1994	Morgan	
		5,423,825	06-1995	Levine	
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		5,425,772	06-1995	Brantigan	
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		5,645,598	07-1997	Brosnahan, III	
		5,669,909	09-1997	Zdeblick et al.	
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		5,720,749	02-1998	Rupp	
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		5,741,253	04-1998	Michelson	
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		5,782,830	07-1998	Farris	

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PP		5,810,819	09-1998	Errico et al.	
		5,814,084	09-1998	Grivas et al.	
		5,857,995	01-1999	Thomas et al.	
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		6,017,343	01-2000	Rogozinski	
		6,033,438	03-2000	Bianchi et al.	
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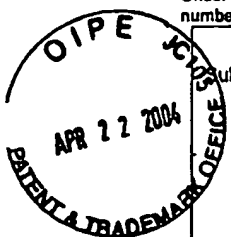
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	†
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (If known)				
PP		EP 0 077 159 A	04-1983			
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		EP 0 307 241	03-1989			
		DE 37 41 493 A1	06-1989			
		EP 0 392 076	10-1990			
		WO 95/08306	03-1995			
		WO 95/15133	06-1995			
		WO 96/22747	08-1996			
		WO 96/40013	12-1996			
		WO 97/13378	04-1997			

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		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
PP ↓		WO 97/15248	05-1997			
		WO 97/25945	07-1997			
		WO 98/17209	04-1998			
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		WO 01/70144	09-2001			

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published			T <sup>2</sup>
PP		<del>AcroMed Spine Tools, <i>PLIF Instruments</i> (undated)</del>			
		<del>AeroMed, <i>Brantigan I/F Cage</i>, (undated)</del>			
		Albee, Fred H. MD, <i>Bone Graft Surgery in Disease, Injury and Deformity</i> , published by D. Appleton-Century Company (1940)			
		AcroMed, <i>Brantigan I/F Cage™ for PLIF</i> (1991)			
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Laparoscopic Bone Dowel Surgical Technique</i> , Memphis, Tennessee (1995)			
		<i>Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation Brochure</i> , (Apr. 1996)			
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Technique Using Bone Dowel Instrumentation for Posterior Approach</i> , LIT.PLIF.ST96 (1996)			
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Tips Posterior Approach</i> (1998)			
		University of Florida Tissue Bank, Inc. <i>Allograft Catalog</i> (1998)			
		Vaughan, John J. MD, <i>New and Innovative Fusion Techniques</i> , The Kentucky Spines Inst. (Dec. 1998)			

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